

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1591 - HB 1440

March 13, 2009

SUMMARY OF BILL: Grants city courts jurisdiction over certain misdemeanors, such as driving without a valid driver's license and underage purchasing of alcoholic beverages. Under current law only cities with a population over 150,000 have jurisdiction over such cases.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$338,000/Permissive

Other Fiscal Impact – There will be a shift of county revenue and expenditures to municipalities. The amount of the shift will be consistent with the fine revenue generated for the specified offenses and the administrative cost to process misdemeanors. There will also be an increase in municipal revenue from the \$1 fee for the municipal court education training fund, which is attached to non-parking cases that are heard in city court. The amount of the increase is dependent on the number of cases that are heard in city court instead of General Sessions court.

Assumptions:

- Approximately five percent (13) of the estimated 250 municipal judges will require an additional staff member at an average salary of \$20,000 and benefits of \$6,000, for a total compensation of \$26,000. Local expenditures are estimated to increase \$338,000 (\$26,000 x 13).
- No change in the amount of fines levied for the specified offenses.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "White" clearly legible, and "W." in the middle.

James W. White, Executive Director

/kmc